

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 00011 031702Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 SAJ-01 EB-07 FAA-00 DOTE-00 ACDA-05

BIB-01 /081 W

----- 053428

R 031636Z JAN 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 314

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

CINCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD & OPS

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS AND AEAGG-OCO

USELMLO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0011

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PBOR, UR, WB

SUBJECT: INCIDENT IN SOUTH CORRIDOR

1. AT 1053 LOCAL DEC 23 AN UNIDENTIFIED MIG FLEW
A LOOP AROUND INBOUND PAN AMERICAN PASSENGER AIRCRAFT
IN SOUTH CORRIDOR. SOVIET BASC CONTROLLER WAS
IMMEDIATELY INFORMED, AND RESPONDED AT 1215 THAT
SOVIET AIRCRAFT INVOLVED IN INCIDENT WAS FLYING
ACCORDING TO PLAN UNDER RADAR CONTROL AND NO
DANGEROUS SITUATION WAS RECORDED.

2. ALTHOUGH SOVIETS TOOK RESPONSIBILITY PROMPTLY,
MISSION BELIEVED THAT INCIDENT, WHICH CONSTITUTED
INFRINGEMENT OF QUADRIPARTITELY AGREED FLIGHT RULES
AND OF GENERAL FLIGHT PRACTICES IN ALLIED AIR SPACE,
CALLED FOR FORMAL STATEMENT ON OUR PART. ACCORDINGLY,
U.S. CHIEF CONTROLLER DELIVERED FOLLOWING
STATEMENT TO SOVIET COUNTERPART JANUARY 3:
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 00011 031702Z

BEGIN TEXT: AT 1053 LOCAL TIME, DECEMBER 23, A MIG-TYPE AIRCRAFT WAS OBSERVED PERFORMING A LOOP AROUND PAN AMERICAN FLIGHT 720, WHICH WAS PROCEEDING TO BERLIN AT FLIGHT LEVEL 90. THIS INCIDENT OCCURRED APPROXIMATELY 60 MILES SOUTHWEST OF BERLIN. THE AMERICAN AIRCRAFT WAS PROCEEDING IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROPERLY FILED FLIGHT PLAN WHICH HAD BEEN PASSED TO THE SOVIET ELEMENT IN THE BASC IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES.

SUCH INCIDENTS ARE A CAUSE OF CONCERN TO OUR AUTHORITIES WHO ARE CONCERNED WITH AIR SAFETY. THE PERFORMANCE OF AEROBATICS WHICH ENDANGER AIR TRAFFIC IN THE AIR CORRIDORS AND THE BERLIN CONTROL ZONE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED BY QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT. MOREOVER, IN ACCORDANCE WITH QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT, AIRCRAFT WHICH CROSS THE CORRIDORS SHOULD DO SO ONLY AT RIGHT ANGLES AND AT THE APPROPRIATE ALTITUDE. THE US AUTHORITIES HOLD THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE STRICT OBSERVANCE OF THE AGREED RULES OF FLIGHT BY ALL AIRCRAFT UNDER THEIR JURISDICTION AND REQUEST THAT THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES TAKE APPROPRIATE MEASURES TO INSURE THAT THERE IS NO REPETITION OF SUCH INCIDENTS. END TEXT

THE BRITISH AND FRENCH CHIEF CONTROLLERS ASSOCIATED THEMSELVES WITH THIS STATEMENT.

3. JUDGING FROM DISCUSSION THAT ENSUED AS TO WHAT DEGREE OF PROXIMITY CONSTITUTED A DANGEROUS SITUATION WITH REGARD TO AIR TRAFFIC, 1953 SOVIET PROPOSALS TO REVISE CORRIDOR FLIGHT RULES, AND VARIOUS FLIGHT RULES AND PROCEDURES, SOVIET REPLY WILL PROBABLY BE THAT NO DANGEROUS SITUATION EXISTED. U.S. CHIEF CONTROLLER POINTED OUT THAT PROXIMITY WAS NOT THE BASIC ISSUE OF THIS STATEMENT BUT THAT PERFORMANCE OF AEROBATICS IN CORRIDORS WAS PROHIBITED. HE NOTED THAT SIGHTINGS OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT AND POTENTIAL PROBLEM AREA SEEMED TO BE CONCENTRATED IN SOUTH CORRIDOR ROUGHLY 50-60 MILES FROM BERLIN (AREA OF ZERBST).

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 00011 031702Z

4. SOVIET CHIEF ACCEPTED STATEMENT FOR RELAY TO APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES AND SAID A REPLY WOULD BE GIVEN ON 8 JANUARY.

5. USCOB CONCURS.SELIGMANN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BERLIN AIR ACCESS, AIRLINES, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975USBERL00011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750003-0819
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750178/aaaacqof.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 MAY 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <28 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INCIDENT IN SOUTH CORRIDOR
TAGS: ETRN, PBOR, UR, WB, US, PANAM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006